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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Lithuania)

DATE DISTR. 21 Jul 1953

SUBJECT Birzhai - Town Description

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIRED BY SSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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SOURCE

1.

- 1) Lake Birzhai- This lake is situated at the eastern end of the town. It is about three kilometers from north to south and about one kilometer from east to west, and in general is oval shaped. [redacted] depth but my best guess is that it is 10 to 20 meters deep. The lake usually freezes early in January and remains frozen until the end of March. During this period the ice is about one and one-half meters deep. The only bridge across it is a small wooden foot bridge which leads into Muravianka, a small village of about four hundred persons. This village has a large linen factory which employed about one thousand persons during the German occupation in World War II. This factory was built about the turn of the century. Lake Birzhai has no commercial fishing. The only boats [redacted] were small row boats used by those who went fishing for sport.

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- 2) and 3) This is the principal street in Birzhai. It is at least four lanes wide, paved with gravel. Drainage is excellent. From Lake Birzhai to the extreme western limit this street is about two and one-half kilometers long.

- 4) From this point west to point 2) is a distance of about one kilometer.

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- 4) to 5) This street is a part of the highway which leads to Tabirze which is located about 10 kilometers west of Birzhai. Within the town this street is four lanes wide and is paved with gravel.

- 6) This street is of importance because it is part of the highway which leads to Panevezhis (55°44'N - 24°21'E). Within the town it is about three lanes wide and is paved with gravel.

- 7) Birzhai district administrative building. It is of brick construction, four floors and erected about 1936. It is the town's largest building.

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- 8) Catholic Church - brick, about one hundred years old.
 - 9) District Hospital - consists of five small buildings. Bed capacity - 80.
 - 10) Old castle, built on a small knoll. It is one block north of the district hospital.
 - 11) Electric power plant - Small one floor brick building. Powered by gasoline motors. It supplies power for the town and rural area around Birzhai.
 - 12) District Jail - Small brick building erected about the turn of the century. It was jammed with 50 prisoners during the German occupation in World War II.
 - 13) Post Office, Telephone and Telegraph building. Brick construction, three floors. It is located about one kilometer east of the district building (No. 7).
 - 14) Gymnasium - brick, four floors. It is only slightly smaller than the district building. It was erected in the early 1930's. This building is located one long block east of the district building (No. 7).
 - 15) Police Station - brick construction, two floors. It was built before World War I. It is located about one kilometer east of the Post Office (No. 13).
 - 16) Public Health Department building - brick construction, two floors.
 - 17) Public market place.
 - 18) Small theatre - frame construction, one floor.
 - 19) City Hall - brick construction, two floors. Erected before World War I.
 - 20) and 21) Drug Stores.
 - 22) Baptist Church
 - 23) Large brewery - brick construction.
2. About ten kilometers south of Birzhai there is a large forest which extends about 80 kilometers from east to west. It is also very long from north to south. This forest was used by Lithuanian guerrillas during World War II and was also used as a center of guerrilla activity against the Soviets after World War II.
3. Water is obtained from wells. It is pure.

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- end -

Enclosure A -  sketch of Birzhai

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ENCLOSURE (A)

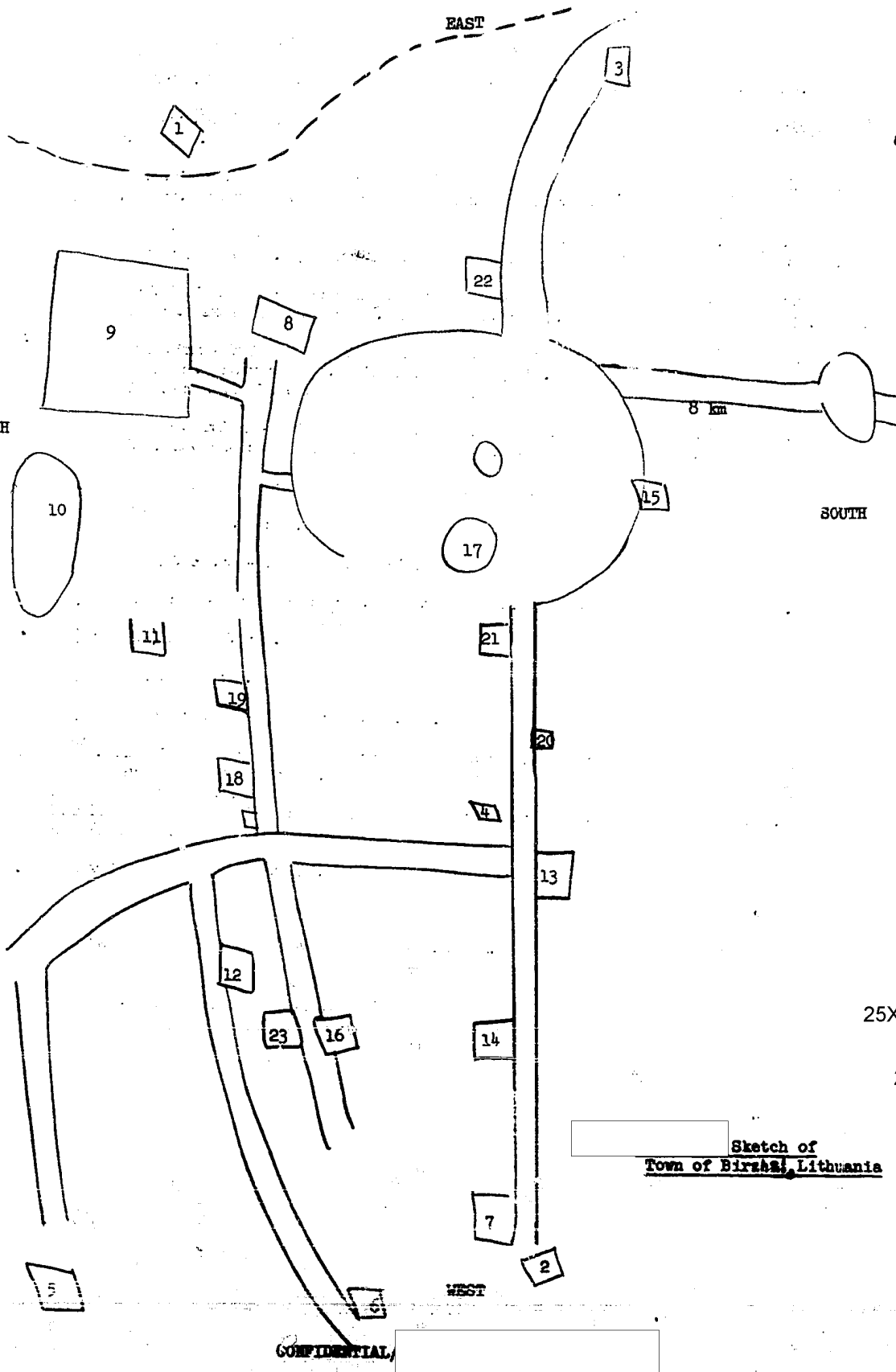
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EAST

NORTH

SOUTH

WEST



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